



# **Press Release**

***Mato Vega Fire Information Inquiries: (719)-379-3783***

***June 22, 2006***

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**Fort Garland, CO** — Crews attempted to conduct burnout operations along highway 160 in La Veta Pass last night to prevent the fire from crossing highway 160 and protecting the Wagon Creek Subdivision. High humidity recovery forced the burnout operation to terminate without completion. The protection of the Wagon Creek Subdivision is a top priority. The burnout operation needs to be completed, as a result highway 160 will remain closed to public travel until this section of line is complete.

Residents in the Wagon Creek Subdivision, Paradise Acres subdivision and Old La Veta Pass area remain under mandatory evacuation orders. Residents in the Forbes Subdivision are under voluntary evacuations. There are approximately 280 homes affected by the evacuation orders.

Despite the extreme fire conditions crew did make some progress gaining 30% containment today.

Tomorrow, crews will continue to construct and strengthen dozer and hand line on the south and west sides of the fire and patrol along highway along 160 and work spot fires on the north side of the fire.

**Fire Facts:**

Size: 11,805 acres

Personnel Assigned: 344

Aircraft: 2 Helicopters assigned and fixed wing air tankers are available

Structures Threatened: 280

Land Ownership: Private

Type 1 Crews: 3

Type 2 Crews: 5

Engines: 31

Water Tenders: 11

Dozers: 8

**Editors Note:** Media Tours will be from the Sierra Grande High School in Fort Garland, at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. All reporters will need Nomex, leather boots, helmets and leather gloves to go to fire line. Media will not be able to access Fort Garland on highway 160. Alternative route to access the fire will be over Poncha Pass on highway 17 to Alamosa for the next 24 hours.